Advanced Placement Chemistry Course

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to AP Chemistry. Please read the following information regarding Mountain View’s Advanced Placement Chemistry course. It is important that you fully understand the nature and rigor of the Advanced Placement approach. Understanding the demands of this course will help determine whether it is desirable and suitable for the student.

Thank you,

Mrs. Johnson – Instructor

[wtwining@mvsd.net](mailto:wtwining@mvsd.net) (might be changed by next year)

**Prerequisites:**

Students are expected to have successfully completed high school chemistry and trigonometry. Concurrent enrollment in trigonometry is acceptable.

**Summer Homework:**

Mandatory summer homework is listed in detail on my AP Chemistry website. This must be completed by the first day of school and is worth over 100 points. There are also four sheets you will need to memorize and there will be a quiz on those the second day of school.

**Course Description:**

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken in the first year of college. This course is recommended for students who have interests in biological sciences, physical sciences, and/or engineering. The course topics include structure and states of matter, types of reactions, stoichiometry, chemical equilibrium and kinetics, thermodynamics, periodicity, nuclear and organic chemistry. This course provides preparation and practice for those students seeking college credit of the AP Exam in May.

**Evaluation:**

The student will be evaluated on the basis of a variety of factors; including, but not limited to written tests, quizzes, laboratory work, periodic notebook evaluations, DEJ, projects, homework presentations, group work and homework.

**Commitment:**

Students are expected to be committed to the successful completion of this course, which includes preparing for and taking the AP Exam in May of 2016. This will require at least 1-2 hours of outside work per day, and may include before or after school hours as needed to complete laboratory work. Students should carefully consider all of the demands on their time, including other classes, extra-curricular activities, and/or employment before selecting this course. For the truly committed, this will be a challenging and rewarding experience.

**AP Exam:** The AP Chemistry Exam is a nationally-administered exam covering the material which a student would learn in a first-year college chemistry course. The test is offered once every year in May. It is scored in June and the results are released in July to the student and the college(s) of his/her choosing. Results of the test are curved and each student receives a grade based on a five-point scale. The grading scale ranges from a low score of 1 (no recommendation) to an intermediate score of 3 (qualified) to a high score of 5 (extremely well-qualified). Although standards vary from college to college, the majority will grant credit for a score of 5 and many will grant credit for a score of 4 or 3. Very few colleges will give credit for a score of 2.

One of the primary objectives of the AP Chemistry course at Mountain View High School is to prepare our students for the national exam, and all students are encouraged to take the exam in May.

Syllabus:

I have included the course syllabus which is still a work in progress and changes may be made. This will give a general outline of the content and skills necessary to pass the exam. It will also give a general idea of the timeframe of which we will spend on certain content and the pace of the course.

I am looking forward to a challenging yet rewarding year. Thank you for your participation and I cannot wait to get started!

Sincerely,

Whitney Johnson

Chemistry Teacher

Mountain View Jr/Sr High School

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